From: Massachusetts AFL-CIO
To: Derek Nolan
Subject: Weekly Labor Reader - September 27, 2018
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"[Brett Kavanaugh] would tip the balance of the Supreme Court even more against workers' rights, civil rights, and women's rights for decades to come." — Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

Putting Safety First: Gas Workers Meet with DPU

Image Description: Gas workers doing maintenance. Credit: 27 East

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Recent gas explosions in Lawrence and Andover have shaken the community and highlighted the importance of having skilled, well-trained workers and good working conditions for gas line construction. However, National Grid employees have been locked out of their jobs for over three months as unsafe replacement labor is brought in to fill the gaps in gas pipeline construction and maintenance. This week, members of USW Local 12012 will be meeting with DPU leaders to share their safety concerns and evidence of job site violations that put communities at risk.

One Job Should Be Enough: Hotel Workers Ready to Strike

Image Description: Members of UNITE HERE Local 26. Credit: UNITE HERE Local 26

Marriott Hotels, the world's largest and richest hotel chain, is up against a formidable and well-organized adversary. Boston hotel workers, represented by UNITE HERE Local 26, recently voted to authorize a strike at eight local Marriott locations if the company does not present the bargaining committee with a fair and reasonable offer. With a whopping 96% of union members voting to authorize the action, workers stand poised to initiate the strike.

UML Adjuncts Demand Equal Pay

Image Description: Protesters at a rally for adjunct faculty. Credit: Donna Becotte, Facebook

In a rally last Wednesday, UMass Lowell adjunct faculty and their supporters protested outside of the Board of Trustees meeting, demanding that UMass President Marty Meehan negotiate an equitable contract for adjuncts at the University's Lowell campus. What they demand is simple: that adjunct faculty at Lowell receive the same pay and benefits as their counterparts at UMass Amherst and Boston.

The University has drawn out contract negotiations with Lowell adjunct faculty for two years, while they continue to make 30-40% of what their peers are making at the college's other campuses. Adjuncts are indispensable and undervalued workers in the higher education system, and they deserve the respect of the UMass system in negotiating a fair contract.

Millennials Are Good for Something - Unions!

Image Description: A young laborer on a construction site. Credit: Trade Source

Tired of hearing about how Millennials are "ruining" every industry? Turns out they're strengthening labor and joining unions in vast numbers.

"Millennial-aged workers are now leading growth in overall union membership, upending historical stereotypes that younger workers don't identify with the labor movement."

September 29: Labor Walk for John Mahoney
October 1: Applications due for Union Leadership Program
October 6: Labor Walk for David LeBoeuf
October 13: Labor Walk for Paul Feeney
October 13: Labor Walk for Tram Nguyen
October 18: Labor Walk for Alison Demong
October 20: Labor Walk for Jim Hawkins
October 20: Labor Walk for John Mahoney
October 27: Labor Walk for Tram Nguyen
October 27: Labor Walk for Paul Feeney

For a full list of upcoming labor walks and events, visit the calendar on our website!

@AFLCIO: Yesterday, @EricSchmidt tweeted that he wanted to figure out ways to increase the wages of lower-income and middle-class people. In his own words, he said he wanted to discover a “unicorn for the middle class.” We had one word for him, #unions. #1u

@AFLCIOGLOBAL: @AFLCIO welcomes #TPS activists! An attack on #TPS is an attack on workers and our families. We won’t be divided! #savetps #1u @tpsalliance

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